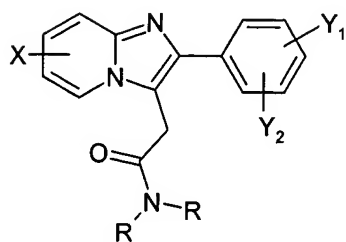


5

CLAIMS

We I claim:

1. A process for the production of a compound or a salt thereof of the formula I

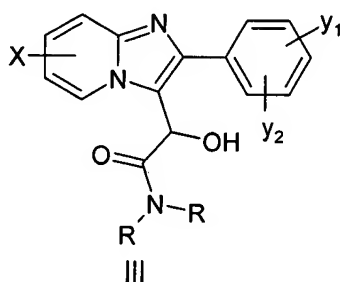


I

in which:

- 15 X is a hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl group and Y₁ and Y₂ are either hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl and R is methyl or C₂₋₄ alkyl group,

which comprises reacting a compound of the formula III



III

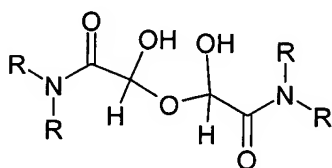
where X, Y₁, Y₂, R are defined as above, with phosphorus tribromide in a non-reactive organic solvent to produce an intermediate, and hydrolysis of the intermediate.

25

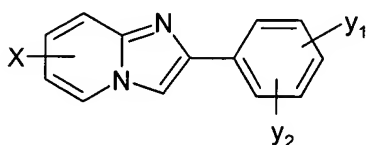
5 2. The process of claim 1 in which the organic solvent is a chlorinated hydrocarbon, ether or methyl isobutyl ketone.

3. The process of claim 1 in which X is methyl, Y₁ is hydrogen and Y₂ is methyl and R is methyl and the product is 6-methyl-N,N-dimethyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-acetamide.

10 4. The process for the formation of compound III which comprises reacting a compound of formula;



where R is methyl or C₂₋₄ alkyl, with an imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine of the formula;



where X and Y₁ and Y₂ are either hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, in an organic solvent.

15 5. A process of claim 4 where X, Y₁ is methyl, Y₂ is hydrogen and R is methyl and the product is 6-methyl-N,N-dimethyl-2-(4-methylphenyl)-α-hydroxyimidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-3-acetamide.

6. A process of claim 4 where the organic solvent is capable of removing water as an azeotrope.

7. A process of claim 4 where the pH is between 4.5 and 9.5.

20 8. A process of claim 4 where the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl hydrocarbon, aromatic hydrocarbon, chlorinated hydrocarbon, ketone, ester and ether.